

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0870
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, IS
SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES AND GUARDIAN ON SADAT MOVES

1. IN EDITORIALS DECEMBER 1, BOTH FINANCIAL TIMES AND GUARDIAN EXPRESS CONCERN OVER MANNER IN WHICH SADAT HAS FOLLOWED UP HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM. FINANCIAL TIMES EDITORIAL ENTITLED "SADAT TAKES ANOTHER RISK" GIVES HIM FULL CREDIT BY POINTING OUT THAT HIS "DIGNIFIED SPEECH BEFORE THE ISRAELI KNESSET WAS AN ARAB TRIUMPH, NOT A HUMILIATION." EDITORIAL NOTES EGYPTIAN NATIONAL INTEREST AND DESIRE TO ENSURE "MOMENTUM" DID NOT SLOW, AND HIS "ANXIETY TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE WITH THE ISRAELIS GOING WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT WHAT IS QUESTIONABLE IS WHETHER HE SHOULD NOT HAVE LEFT MORE TIME FOR THE IMPACT OF HIS TRIP TO SINK IN AND BE FULLY ASSESSED BY THE OTHER ARAB STATES. BY CALLING SO SWIFTLY FOR CONFERENCE...IT MAY BE SAID HE PRESSED TOO HARD AND TOO SOON." EDITORIAL SAYS US "HAS SHOWN RESERVE." AFTER DISCUSSING REACTION IN ARAB WORLD, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "ANY DECISIONS WHICH SMACK TOO CLEARLY OF A BILATERAL DEAL RUN THE RISK OF ALIENATING THE OTHER ARAB STATES MORE PROFOUNDLY, STRENGTHENING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE REJECTIONIST POSITION, AND THEREBY MAKING IT HARDER FOR A FULL GENEVA CONFERENCE TO CONVENE."

2. THE GUARDIAN EDITORIAL, IN SIMILAR VEIN ENTITLED "THE DANGERS OF MOVING TOO FAST," SAYS "PRESIDENT SADAT CAUSED ASTONISHMENT BY HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM. NOW HE HAS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT BY HIS CONFERENCE

IN CAIRO. ONLY ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION
WITH ANY ENTHUSIASM... THE UNITED STATES IS GOING,
BUT WITH EVERY SIGN OF RELUCTANCE." GUARDIAN CONTENTS,
"ANOTHER WAY TO APPROACH THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN TO TRY FIRST TO ASSUAGE
THE ANGER OF THE OTHER ARAB STATES, OR AT LEAST
GIVE IT TIME TO DIE AWAY, AND THEN AIM FOR A PRE-
GENEVA MEETING." EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT FEELING
THAT ISRAEL IS KEEN ON A "COSY" BILATERAL DEAL
"HAS EMBARRASSED FRIENDS OF BOTH CAPITALS. MR.
BEGIN COULD START TO DISPEL THAT EMBARRASSMENT BY A
MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO MR. SADAT'S INITIATIVE...
AND WHEN HE COMES TO LONDON TOMORROW THAT OUGHT TO
BE THE MESSAGE HE RECEIVES." GUARDIAN CONCLUDES THAT
"IN SPITE OF THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY MR. SADAT'S
CONFERENCE, THE WEST'S GOOD WILL IS FLOWING STRONGLY
IN CAIRO'S DIRECTION."

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